

Nov 22, 2009

Dear ORV committee members and Mr. P Ramos

Subject: Trails map done by NPS – BICY ORV committee Nov 2009.

I can support this map with some modifications that will allow the BICY to be managed, as the Amended BICY Act requires. The NPS must provide for “traditional activities” as defined the author of the bill. The following changes must be made to permit the NPS to properly manage this unit of the NPS as required by the enabling act.

1. Extend the secondary trails, green, in the NE part of Turner River Unit so that they connect with the historically established ORV trails that are in the Addition Lands and where there since the 1940s and in some cases before that. The ability to travel across the entire BICY and Addition is an important part of the visitor experience for the non-hunter and hunter alike. By building artificial political boundaries in this map, plan, the NPS is failing to properly support the cultural activity that has long been an important part of the Big Cypress. The ability of ride ones ORV, swamp buggy, from one end of the BICY to the other is just as important as the ability of the hiker to do the same. The NPS has not created the same artificial boundaries for the visitor who wants to hike and must not do this for those who want to driver their swamp buggy, ORV. To treat one user group differently that the other is wrong.

2. Provide the necessary trails to the designated spots of interest that are indicated on this map as “best trails”. These trails are there, they are in place as the trails were used, without any need for maintenance or improvement, long before the BICY was created. You can go back and see these sustainable trails on the 1971 and early aerial photographs of the area.

3. Gate #2 is move to the north as indicated by the brown line.

4. All the secondary trails are left in that are on the map at this time, November 22, 2009.

5. All the other brown trails are included in the final plan.

6. While address specific items on this map I do not pretend to know every part of this unit, even after guiding the NPS archeologist and traveling by foot and ORV from 1965 to 2001 therefore my thoughts should not be used to prevent other's expressed specific recommendations as to what else is needed.

Sincerely

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